

## Accreditation Framework and California Education Code

### Accreditation Framework-Section 1

Ed. Code

#### Authority and Responsibilities of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing

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##### A. Responsibilities Related to Accreditation Policies

- 1. Adopt and Modify the Accreditation Framework.** *The Commission has the authority and responsibility to adopt an Accreditation Framework, “which sets forth the policies of the Commission regarding the accreditation of educator preparation in California” (Education Code Section 44372-a). The present document is the adopted Accreditation Framework. The Commission may modify the Framework in accordance with Section 8 of the Framework. Modifications occur in public meetings after the Commission considers relevant information provided by the Committee on Accreditation, institutions, accreditation team members, the Commission’s staff, and other concerned individuals. The Commission determines when a policy modification takes effect.* **44371 (a)**  
**44371 (b)**  
**44372 (a)**  
**44372 (i)**
- 2. Establish and Modify Standards for Educator Preparation.** *Pursuant to Education Code Section 44372-b, the Commission has the authority and responsibility to establish and modify standards for educator preparation in California.* **44372 (b)**
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##### B. Responsibilities Related to Accreditation Decisions

- 1. Initial Accreditation of Institutions.** *In accordance with Education Code Sections 44227-a and 44372-c and Section 4 of this Framework, the Commission determines the eligibility of an institution that applies for initial accreditation and that has not previously prepared educators for state certification in California. The Commission accredits institutions that meet the criteria that have been adopted for that purpose by the Commission. Institutional accreditation by the Commission establishes the eligibility of an institution to submit specific program proposals to the Committee on Accreditation.* **44372 (c)**
- 2. Hear and Resolve Accreditation Appeals.** *The Commission hears appeals of accreditation decisions, which must be based on evidence that accreditation procedures or decisions were “arbitrary, capricious, unfair, or contrary to the policies of the Commission or the procedural guidelines of the Committee on Accreditation” (Education Code Section 44374-e). The Commission resolves each appeal, and the Executive Director communicates the Commission’s decision to the Committee on Accreditation, the accreditation team, and the affected institution.* **44372 (f)**  
**44372 (e)**  
**44374 (e)**
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##### C. Responsibilities Related to the Committee on Accreditation

- 1. Establish a Nominating Panel.** *In collaboration with the Accreditation Advisory Council and subsequently with the Committee on Accreditation, the Commission establishes a Nominating Panel to solicit and screen nominations and recommend educators to serve on the Committee on Accreditation.* **44373 (b)**
- 2. Appoint the Committee on Accreditation.** *Pursuant to Education Code 44372-d and Section 2 of this Framework, the Commission appoints members and alternate members of the Committee on Accreditation for specific terms. The Commission selects the Committee members and alternate members from nominees submitted by the Nominating Panel. The Commission ensures that the Committee on Accreditation is professionally distinguished and balanced in its composition, but does not appoint members to represent particular institutions, organizations or constituencies.* **44373 (a)**  
**44373 (b)**  
**44372 (d)**
- 3. Address Issues and Refer Concerns Related to Accreditation.** *The Commission considers issues and concerns related to accreditation that it identifies, as well as those brought to the Commission’s attention by the Committee on Accreditation, postsecondary institutions, the Commission’s staff, or other concerned individuals or organizations. At its discretion, the Commission may refer accreditation issues and concerns to the Committee on Accreditation for examination and response.* **44374 (e)**  
**44372 (e)**  
**44373 (c) (5)**

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- 4. Review Annual Reports by the Committee on Accreditation.** *The Commission reviews Annual Accreditation Reports submitted by the Committee on Accreditation. Annual Reports include standard information about the dimensions and results of the accreditation process. Annual Reports may also identify the Committee's issues and concerns, but these may be presented to the Commission separately from the Annual Reports.* **44372 (e)**
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**D. Responsibilities Related to the Accreditation System**

- 1. Allocate Resources Annually for Accreditation Operations.** *The Commission annually allocates resources for accreditation operations to implement this Accreditation Framework. Consistent with the Commission's general practice, staff assignments to accreditation operations are made by the Executive Director, in accordance with state budgets, laws and regulations.* **44372 (g)**
- 2. Jointly Sponsor an External Evaluation of Accreditation Policies and Practices.** *The Commission shares responsibility with the Committee on Accreditation for the design and implementation of a comprehensive evaluation of accreditation policies and the selection of an external evaluator to conduct the evaluation, pursuant to Section 8 of this Accreditation Framework.* **44372 (h).**
- 3. Review and Sponsor Legislation Related to Accreditation.** *The Commission reviews legislative proposals to amend the Education Code related to the accreditation of educator preparation institutions. As the need arises, the Commission sponsors legislation related to accreditation, after considering the advice of the Commission's professional staff, the Committee on Accreditation, educational institutions and professional organizations.* **44372 (j)**

**Accreditation Framework-Section 2****Ed. Code****Functions and Appointment of the Committee on Accreditation****A. Functions of the Committee on Accreditation**

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- 1. Comparability of Standards.** In accordance with Section 3 of this *Framework*, the Committee determines whether standards submitted by institutions under Option 2 (National or Professional Program Standards) or Option 5 (Alternative Program Standards), taken as a whole, provide a level of program quality comparable to standards adopted by the Commission under Option 1 (California Program Standards). If the Committee determines that the proposed standards are collectively comparable in breadth and depth, when taken as a whole, to the Commission-adopted standards, the Committee on Accreditation may approve the proposed standards as Program Standards in California. **44373 (c) (3)**
- 2. Initial Accreditation of Programs.** The Committee reviews proposals for the initial accreditation of programs submitted by institutions that have been determined eligible by the Commission. New programs of educator preparation may be submitted under Options One, Two, Four or Five in Section 3. If the Committee determines that a program meets all applicable standards, the Committee grants initial accreditation to the program. **44373 (c) (2)**
- 3. Continuing Accreditation Decisions.** After reviewing the recommendations of accreditation teams and the responses of institutions, the Committee makes decisions about the continuing accreditation of educator preparation institutions and programs, consistent with Section 6 of this *Framework*. *Pertaining to each institution, the Committee makes one of three decisions: Accreditation, Accreditation with Stipulations, or Denial of Accreditation.* **44373 (c) (1)**  
**44374 (d)**
- 4. Accreditation Procedures.** Consistent with the terms of Section 6, the Committee recommends appropriate guidelines for self-study reports and other accreditation materials and exhibits to be prepared by institutions. The Committee also adopts guidelines for accreditation team reports, which emphasize the use of narrative, qualitative explanations of team recommendations. The Committee may provide additional guidance to institutions, teams and the Executive Director regarding **44373 (c) (4)**

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accreditation visit procedures. The procedural guidelines of the Committee are published by the Commission as an *Accreditation Handbook*.

**5. Monitor the Accreditation System.** The Committee monitors the performance of accreditation teams and oversees other activities associated with the accreditation system. **44373 (c) (4)**

**6. Annual Reports, Recommendations and Responses.** The Committee presents *Annual Accreditation Reports* to the Commission. Annual Reports include standard information about the dimensions and results of the accreditation process. The Committee also advises the Commission about policy changes to improve the quality and integrity of the accreditation process. **44373 (c) (5)**

**7. Meet in Public Sessions.** The Committee conducts its business and makes its decisions in meetings that are open to the public, except as provided by statute. **Bagley-Keene**

**8. Jointly Sponsor an External Evaluation of Accreditation Policies and Practices.** *The Committee shares responsibility with the Commission for the design and implementation of a comprehensive evaluation of accreditation policies and the selection of an external evaluator to conduct the evaluation, pursuant to Section 8 of the Framework.* **44372 (h)**

**B. Membership of the Committee on Accreditation**

**1. Membership Composition.** *The Committee consists of twelve members. Six members are from postsecondary education institutions, and six are certificated professionals in public schools, school districts, or county offices of education in California. Selection of members is based on the breadth of their experience, the diversity of their perspectives, and "their distinguished records of accomplishment in education" (Education Code Section 44373-a). All members serve as members-at-large. No member serves on the Committee as a representative of any organization, institution, or constituency. To the maximum extent possible, Committee membership is balanced according to ethnicity, gender, and geographic regions. The Committee includes members from elementary and secondary schools, and from public and private postsecondary institutions. The elementary and secondary school members include at least one certificated administrator, one teacher, and one role specialist. The postsecondary members include at least one administrator and one faculty member, both of whom must be involved in professional teacher education programs.* **44373 (a)**

**2. Membership Criteria.** The criteria for membership on the Committee are: *evidence of achievement in the education profession; recognized professional or scholarly contributions in the field of education; recognition of excellence by peers; experience with and sensitivity to issues of human diversity; distinguished service in the field of educator preparation; knowledge of issues related to the preparation and licensing of education professionals; length of professional service; and possession of appropriate educational degrees and professional credentials.* **44373 (a)**

**C. Appointment of the Committee on Accreditation**

**1. Nominating Panel.** *A Nominating Panel of six distinguished members of the education profession in California identifies and nominates individuals to serve on the Committee on Accreditation. The Nominating Panel is comprised of three college and university members and three elementary and secondary school members. The Commission and the Accreditation Advisory Council must reach consensus on the members of the initial Nominating Panel. Subsequently, the Commission and the Committee on Accreditation will reach consensus on new members of the Nominating Panel. The terms of Nominating Panel members are four years long. Members of the Panel may not serve more than one term.* **44373 (b)**

**2. Nomination of Committee Members.** To select members for the Committee on Accreditation, the Nominating Panel solicits *nominations* from professional organizations, agencies, institutions, and individuals in education. Each nomination must be submitted with the consent of the individual and the nominee's professional resume. Self-nominations are not accepted. **44373 (b)**

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- 3. Selection of Initial Committee Members.** Based on the membership criteria and the principles of balanced composition set forth in this section, the Nominating Panel recommends for initial appointment twenty-four highly qualified nominees who are drawn equally from colleges and universities (twelve nominees) and elementary and secondary schools (twelve nominees). The *Commission appoints the twelve members and six alternate members of the Committee by selecting from the nominations submitted by the Panel.* **44372 (d)**
- 4. Terms of Appointment.** The Commission appoints members of the Committee on Accreditation to three-year terms. However, the initial appointees include six members with two-year appointments and six with three-year appointments. A member may be renominated and reappointed to a second term of three years. A member may serve a maximum of two terms on the Committee.
- 5. Selection of Subsequent Committee Members.** Prior to the conclusion of the Committee members' terms, the Nominating Panel again submits nominations to the Commission, which must be drawn from individuals who have been nominated and reviewed. *The Panel submits twice as many nominees as the number of pending vacancies on the Committee. The Commission fills each Committee seat and alternate position by selecting from the nominations.* **44373 (b)**
- 6. Committee Vacancies.** When a seat on the Committee becomes vacant prior to the conclusion of the member's term, the Executive Director fills the seat for the remainder of the term by appointing a replacement from the list of alternate members.